

SPECIAL REPORT FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

■ **EVACUATION**
■ **EMERGENCY**
■ **HEARTACHE**

11 pages of **COVERAGE**

■ **EDMONTON**
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FORT MCMURRAY
THE POLITICS
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metroVIEWS

Your essential daily news | **THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016**

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A helicopter battles the wildfire on Wednesday.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The hardest thing to describe is the wind — a deep, gut punch of a blast powerful enough to form dust spirals along the highway, and nearly as hot on your face as when you open an oven...

Metro reports from inside a national catastrophe, page 3

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Facing fire



Tim Querengesser
IN FORT MCMURRAY

The hardest thing to describe is the wind — a deep, gut punch of a blast powerful enough to form dust spirals along the highway, and nearly as hot on your face as when you open an oven.

The next thing is the smell — solvents, charcoal, ash — punctuated by the sound of sirens and desperate calls, seemingly everywhere along the highway, for diesel — “you got any diesel?”

Those calls were part of the overriding feeling of helplessness Wednesday evening, here on the southern edge of Fort McMurray, as dozens of people who wanted to help were forced to hold station by police as the fire yet again crossed Highway 63, the only road into town.

“Black smoke usually means a house or a car is on fire,” said Jeff Parker, sitting in frustrated limbo in the cab of his truck as 50,000 litres of diesel — intended for firefighters battling the blaze — sat uselessly behind him. “And I see a lot of black smoke.”

Parker has been trucking up to Fort McMurray since 2009 and has dozens of friends who live there, many of whom have been displaced.

“It’s the old proverbial saying that it all depends on how the wind blows,” he said. “Right now it’s not the right way. What



Fort McMurray resident Crystal Maltais buckles in her daughter, McKennah Stapley, after evacuating their home Tuesday.

COURTESY TOPHER SEGUIN

I saw today is 1,000 times worse than yesterday.”

Just a few kilometres north, the fire that people who fight them have called “nasty” — one that has pushed more than 88,000 people to flee north and south of a remote city surrounded by boreal forest — continued inflicting pain.

By Wednesday evening its flames had swollen to 10,000 hectares, from 7,500, and of-



It’s the old proverbial saying that it all depends on how the wind blows. Right now it’s not the right way. What I saw today is 1,000 times worse than yesterday.

Jeff Parker

officials worried the class 4 fire might potentially spread to the city’s airport. More than 250 firefighters, many who came at a

moment’s notice to help, were battling to save a city that’s small in population but central to the economic health of Alberta.

That fight was already lost in many areas: More than 1,600 homes and business have been destroyed, and with the trifecta of 30C temperatures, low humidity and strong winds — along with worries about lightning storms — officials feared the fire was not done destroying.

On Wednesday afternoon, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley declared a state of emergency, the Canadian military began mobil-

izing to help and the fire claimed its first fatality — in a car accident near Lac La Biche, as thousands continued to flee south.

Approaching the city from Edmonton, kilometre-long convoys of pickups trucks, evacuation buses and SUVs, many coated in beige ash, turned roads in northern Alberta into a human river.

Abandoned vehicles — including one city bus — were left scattered along Highway 63’s shoulders, an apocalyptic vibe counteracted by dozens of good Samaritans, who set up spontaneous gas stations and restaurants Wednesday right on the asphalt, offering gasoline out of jerry cans, water or food out of the back of their pickup trucks.

“It’s going to be a long-term recovery,” said Scott Long, executive director of provincial operations at Alberta Emergency Management Agency, in a daily briefing on the fire. “The damages are surprising. It will take years (to recover), for sure.”

From Parker’s cab, watching clouds of smoke billow through the windshield, that was a sentiment shared.

“To bounce back from this, it’s doable, but it’s not going to be overnight,” he said.

Tim Querengesser is the managing editor of Metro Edmonton. He has written about Fort McMurray for various publications and has covered western and northern Canada since 2008.

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

Fort McMurray Mayor Melissa Blake signs a local state of emergency, allowing officials to declare evacuation orders for communities.

Residents of Gregoire, south of Fort McMurray, are evacuated to MacDonald Island.



Residents are warned of poor air quality and low visibility in much of Wood Buffalo.

MAY 1 - 9:57 PM

MAY 1 - 10:55 PM

MAY 2 - 6:05 AM

'People help each other'

AID

Farms, homes and places of worship make room



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Like many, Mohamed Bouchaala and Fatma Louati moved to Fort McMurray for the jobs, but stayed for what they say is an unusually tight knit community.

So when they turned their rental car toward Edmonton and away from the wildfire Tuesday night, it was their friends and neighbours they thought of.

"We have good people, a good community, people help each other," Louati said. "It's too sad."

But they're grateful to have been embraced by a makeshift community in Edmonton, finding a place to sleep and food waiting at the Al Rashid mosque on the northside.

It's one of the many centres in Edmonton — including farms, places of worship and even private homes — that have flung open their doors to those fleeing fire.

Hussein Jomaa, chair of the Edmonton Islamic Relief Committee, says there was no question of whether to help.

"I think it's everybody's responsibility as part of this community, we are a part of it. Whatever happens to them, might happen to you too," he said.

Bouchaala had been at the Suncor site when the smoke



Fatma Louati and Mohamed Bouchaala fled Fort McMurray with their kids Shayma, 5, Hend, 3 and Haydar, 2. ALEX BOYD/METRO

began to build. By the time he reached his wife, they had 15 minutes to grab water, passports and a change of clothes before jumping in the car.

"We didn't even have time to understand what was happening, we were in shock," he said.

But with only had a quarter tank of gas, and lineups at the pump hours long, they finally ditched their car at the airport and rented one just for its full tank.

Their journey to Edmonton was a 12-hour odyssey at 30 km/h. They stopped twice to

sleep and many more times to let the kids, ages five, three and two, out to use the washroom.

As his two oldest take turns on the basketball net in the mosque's gym, Bouchaala pulls up a news report on his phone shot less than two kilometres from their home in downtown Fort McMurray, the buildings reduced to ashy ruin.

Right now their home is still standing and he said they're committed to going back as soon as they can.

"We've built it once, we can build it again."

+ AVAILABLE SERVICES

Housing

MacEwan University residences — various
Must register at Northlands first.
Online database—www.yymmfire.ca
Matches evacuees with spare rooms.
Airbnb — online
No service fees until May 21.

Medical

London Drugs — various

locations.

Offering emergency help with refills.
Maier Centre — 1-745-1 103 Avenue
Trained staff will help parents with kids with autism or other special needs.

Food

Offering some free or discounted meals to evacuees: Central Social Hall, Famoso's, the Pint.



We're here to help in anyway we can.

Candice Quinlan

"We're just here to help, to give them a calm environment with staff that understand their needs. So they can relax."

Located at 17451 - 103 Avenue, the Meier Centre is set up to provide programming for kids with disabilities, school programs and respite care.

So they have a gym, a full service kitchen and are currently bringing in extra staff.

Quinlan said they currently have one family staying at the centre, who arrived with their two kids in the early hours Wednesday, but have room for more.

She added parents with kids with special needs are also welcome to stop by and let their child spend time with staff so they can have a rest.

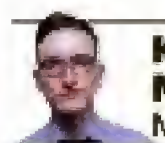
"We're here to help in anyway we can."

To contact the Centre, call their office at 780-495-9235.

ALEX BOYD/METRO

INSURANCE

Blaze damages will be 'way worse' than Slave Lake



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

An insurance company that handled claims in Slave Lake's 2011 fire says damages caused by the ongoing Fort McMurray blaze will be "way worse."

Patricia White, vice-president of claims with Peace Hills Insurance, said Wednesday morning the company is

getting organized to respond to the deluge of insurance claims after 88,000 people were evacuated and many homes went up in flames.

"We don't know where we're at right now. We're just getting ourselves organized and taking a deep breath," White said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people. We got through (Slave Lake) and we'll get through this."

Peace Hills is in the preliminary stages of setting up claims while the fires continue to burn, but it will be a while before damages can be assessed.

It took nearly three years for the company to settle all its claims from the Slave Lake fire, and it was one of the first insurance companies to do so. Peace Hills hired environmental and cost consultants to help determine accurate

replacement costs.

Anne Marie Thomas, an insurance expert with InsuranceHotline.com, said Fort McMurray homeowners should contact their insurance companies as soon as possible, even if they do not know whether their home has been damaged, so the companies can open up files.

"At least put them on notice," Thomas said.

"It's unfortunate that, right

now, there's probably not a lot that can be done with respect to settling a claim because nobody knows what the damage is."

She said most insurance policies include additional living expense for displaced people, and many insurers will set up a separate process for catastrophes to streamline claims or get money to homeowners before claims have been fully processed.

A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

550

Officials say the fire is between 550 and 750 hectares in size but not yet threatening homes.



The communities of Prairie Creek, Gregoire and Centennial Park are mostly evacuated.

MAY 2 - 11:00 AM

MAY 2 - 11:16 AM

BRIAN JEAN

Wildrose leader's home lost

Wildrose leader and Fort McMurray MLA Brian Jean is among those who lost their home in the wildfire.

Jean went to the community, which he represents in the legislature, on Tuesday just as the fire spread. He said his own home in the Waterways neighbourhood was consumed.

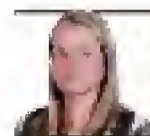
"I saw a pile of rubble and smoke and ash. My entire block is devastated," he said.

He said some of his family members had been spared, but others had nothing but rubble.

"It picks and chooses, but the truth is there are quite a few houses that have been destroyed." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

SUPPORT

Military set to aid



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The Canadian Armed Forces are in the midst of helping provincial and municipal authorities with the Fort McMurray wildfire.

Brigadier-General Wayne Eyre, commander of the third Canadian Division, said the province has asked them to assist provincial authorities with evacuations and delivery of essential aid. He said helicopter support is currently being provided to assist in evacuation efforts.

"We've been asked to assist provincial authorities in supporting evacuation of civilians from some of the surrounding and more isolated communities and to provide any extra airlift ... to get some of these provincial firefighters to the right place at the right time," said Eyre.

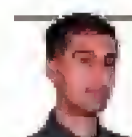


Resident Johnny Dulku said people at Noralta Lodge are trying to keep their spirits up and be supportive. COURTESY JOHNNY DULKU

Residents in camps waiting for rescue

EVACUATION

No shortages, but Noralta, Black Sands ration food



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

When the call for the mandatory evacuation of Fort McMurray blared through the radios, Johnny Dulku got his wife and cat into the car and drove further north than he had ever gone before.

They arrived at the Noralta Lodge, about 75 kilometres from his home in Fort McMurray.

It was a long night, but Dulku said he's thankful the lodge is well-stocked in terms of food.

He said around the camp, the atmosphere is not exactly positive, but fairly decent.

"It's mostly people waiting and wondering, getting reports, hearing rumours, finding out what they just heard was wrong, then they're hearing something else," he said.

Cell reception in the northern areas is weak and the Wi-Fi spotty at best, according to teacher Samantha Quartermann, who found her way to the Black



It's mostly waiting and wondering, getting reports, hearing rumours.

Johnny Dulku

Sands camp.

"As far as I know, conditions seem good," she said. "Plenty of food at breakfast and lunch, with bottled water and notices of the boil-water advisory everywhere. 'We haven't been made aware or noticed any shortages at the moment.'"

There were initially concerns

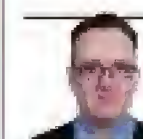
over Twitter in some of the camps north of Fort McMurray that there was a food shortage, but Noralta clarified over social media that they are simply rationing the food.

Quartermann said she was forced to drive far enough north that she could no longer see the large amounts of smoke coming from the city. She said driving to a big city like Edmonton was not an option.

"(We) have no choice but to wait it out because of scarcity of fuel and the uncertainty of the highway south," she said. "Just confirmed it's blocked by fire so we have no choice but to hope for rescue."

EDMONTON FIRE

City's crews pitch in



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton is doubling the number of firefighters it has on duty in Fort McMurray, aiming to have two shifts working every day.

The city dispatched 19 firefighters, two pump trucks and two tankers to the fire late Tuesday evening at the request of the department in Fort McMurray.

Fire chief Ken Block said Edmonton is sending 36 firefighters to the city, to relieve those crews and allow for round-the-clock coverage.

"They desire us to have enough firefighters to staff up a day and a night shift and provide municipal fire support," he said.

Block said it has been exhausting for the crews that are up there, who are simply going from building to building to battle structure fires. He said it's lucky the crews have not been injured.

"Beyond fatigue there have been no injuries, which is great to report," he said.

Block said it took eight hours for the crews to get to Fort McMurray because the highways were so crowded.

"It was a challenge, the southbound Highway 63 was so full of vehicles and many were stranded," he said.

Block said Edmonton expected to rotate the firefighters out of the community every three days until they were no longer needed.

He said this deployment was not having any impact on Edmonton's service. There are also four police cruisers from Edmonton on site, helping to direct traffic.

ESCAPING FORT MCMURRAY

'There were trees going up in front of me on fire': Survivor



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

While he raced out of Fort McMurray to escape the flames, there were moments when

Gerry Murphy didn't think he would make it.

Murphy and his wife Golda fled south Tuesday afternoon, through chaotic bumper-to-bumper traffic and past a gas station that had exploded.

"There were trees going up

in front of me on fire. We were just driving through it as fast as we could go," he said.

"It was horrible. We saw some vehicles in the ditch. We saw one car, the rear end was smacked in, but the guy was continuing down the highway.

Vehicles all over the place, out of gas, people trying to find alternate routes on side roads and getting stuck in bogs. It was scary times."

The harrowing exit was the opposite of what Murphy expected when he woke up that

morning to a hot, sunny day, preparing for his granddaughter's 16th birthday party.

"We were out doing yard work and next thing you knew, we took a break and came back out and oh, my God. We had no time. We grabbed our es-

entials and got out," he said.

They left at 1:30 p.m. and was on the road all night, pulling over for a couple of hours' sleep before stopping in Athabasca for water and supplies.

Murphy's sister is putting them up in Edmonton.

A FIRE UNFOLDS

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Residents are advised not to operate ATVs and overhead valve engines and to give crews room to work.

Prairie Creek and Gregoire residents are told they can return home if they choose, but **most don't come back** in case situation escalates.



Fire Chief Darby Allen urges residents to get their emergency kits ready. "We're in for a tough day," he says.

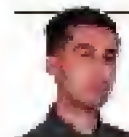
MAY 2 - 4:27 PM

MAY 2 - 5:40 PM

MAY 3 - 11:00AM

AT THE PUMP

Fires limit fuel use, ups waits



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Motorists fleeing Fort McMurray on Tuesday night were faced with bumper-to-bumper lines to reach the gas pumps.

Calgarian Fraser Simons, who was working in Fort McMurray on contract, said he was forced to evacuate with his coworkers at about 7 p.m. Tuesday night. He reached a gas station at 11 p.m., but after waiting for an hour, was told there was a \$20 limit.

Officials said they're working with the province to get available fuel to those who need it, but it's not an easy task with a clear timeline.

IN BRIEF

Babies evacuated from fire

During the height of the fire consuming Fort McMurray, Alberta Health Services staff had to evacuate more than 100 patients from the city's hospital, including nine newborn babies.

AHS interim CEO Dr. Verna Yiu confirmed Wednesday morning that they had all patients out of the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre to Edmonton.

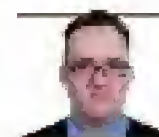
"I have to say that I am really, really grateful and proud of our staff," said Yiu.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Northlands opens doors to evacuees

FINDING REFUGE

Expo centre currently has space for 1,400, says executive



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

After fleeing Fort McMurray in a rush Tuesday night, Judy Graham said she was overjoyed to be welcomed with a good breakfast and a cup of Starbucks coffee at Northlands Wednesday morning.

"The folks inside are wonderful, they have been very accommodating and very kind to us," said Graham who along with her husband, children and grandchildren fled Fort McMurray when a mandatory evacuation order was put in place.

She said the trip down was orderly, but what is normally a four and a half hour drive became 11 hours because of the heavy traffic.

Taking their dog Sadie out for a walk, Graham said her family home is in a part of the community that has not yet been impacted by the fire, but they are keeping a close eye.

She said it was a dramatic turn of events for what they were planning.

"We had plane tickets today to go to Nova Scotia, but those



Evacuees depart from coach buses at the Northlands evacuation centre on Wednesday where 450 people are currently checked in. Although there is presently only room for 1,400 people, **Northlands CEO Tim Reid says other halls can be closed down to increase capacity to 5,000 if required.** RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

plans got cancelled," she said. "I am just glad that we are all safe and sound."

Graham's 11-year-old granddaughter Madelyn, said leaving the city was frightening as fire came right up to the road.

"It was like watching a horror movie, because the fire was so close," she said.

Chris Royal was flown out of his job at a camp north of Fort McMurray to make way for the refugees streaming out of the city. He ended up at Northlands at first, but was going to a friends.

He said he was thankful. "All in all I didn't lose a house.

I am not staying here tonight, because I have somewhere else to go."

Northlands was turned into



It was like watching a horror movie.

Madelyn Graham

an evacuation centre in a matter of hours Tuesday and opened to evacuees at midnight.

Northlands CEO Tim Reid said

they had space for 1,400 currently, but could close other halls at the site to make way for as many as 5,000 if necessary.

"We receive them the same way we would any other guest who comes to Northlands," he said.

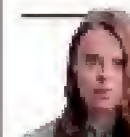
As of Wednesday afternoon, 450 people had checked in at the facility.

Reid said when people began to arrive everyone realized how important it was to help.

"When you see people arrive after a seven-hour trip with young children it's really striking."

POST-SECONDARY

Schools on standby to offer help



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's post-secondary institutions with room to spare are on standby in case of an influx of Fort McMurray residents displaced as the northern Alberta wildfires rage on.

The Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) has engaged SAIT, the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University to be prepared to set up shelter for any of the 88,000 residents who've been evacuated from Fort McMurray.

On Wednesday, CEMA chief Tom Sampson told a city committee they're not sure if flights coming in to Calgary from the area are full of Calgarians, or people from Fort McMurray who need shelter.

The plan, so far, is not to set up group lodging, but to get people into post-secondary residences.

"The best thing we can do for the people who arrive in Calgary is keep them in one area," Sampson said. "Let's not disperse those people through Calgary homes right now."

Steve Fitterer, Interim-Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Life at MRU has counted the beds and said they are working to get more ready.

"Our doors are open to Fort McMurray residents displaced by the wildfires," said Fitterer.

Institutions are still waiting on the logistics and how to manage, and it's very early to tell if they will be needed.

PAYROLL OFFICERS IN ALBERTA

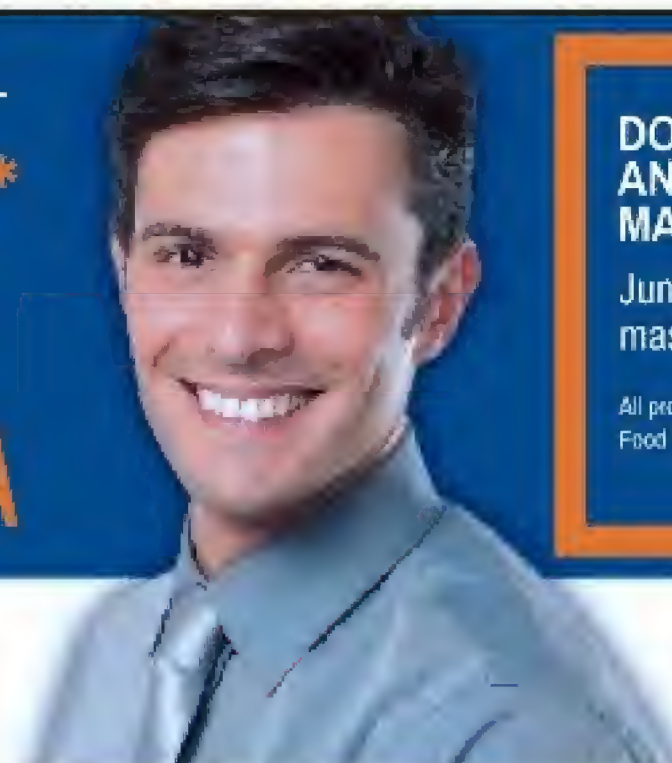
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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster



MAY 3 - 12:00 PM

THE BIG MOVE. The city decides to split Fort McMurray in two. Those who live south of the bridge drive south on Highway 63 and those who live north drive north.



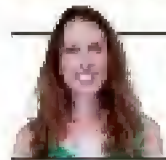
Mandatory evacuations are issued. Residents are told to go now to MacDonald Island Park.

MAY 3 - 2:05 PM

Escaping fire and smoke on horseback

SURVIVAL

With clogged roads, woman had no choice but to ride out



Liz Brown
Metro | Canada

As the wind changed and wildfires pushed toward the north side of Fort McMurray, 16-year-old Jada Polem saddled up her horse and started riding through the bumper-to-bumper traffic on Confederation Way.

On Monday, her family had moved their three horses from



Karley Kenny, also a member of the Clearwater Horse Club, escapes on her horse while ponying two others. JULIE LODGE

Clearwater Horse Club on the city's south side to a north-side campground they thought would be safe. But Tuesday, winds shifted and in hours they were moving their horses

again.

"We were waiting for trailers to come back to pick up my horse, but it became impossible for them to get through," says Polem.

As the smoke worsened, Polem's father drove the truck and trailer that could only hold two horses while his daughter rode the third alongside. It was a terrifying prospect, as horses can be nervous in traffic, but Polem saw no other choice.

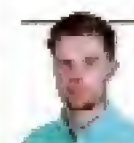
"She was a little nervous," Polem says of her Quarter Horse mare Mya. "But she handled it really well."

It took four hours for Polem to ride 15 kilometres to safety — to the water treatment plant where her father worked. There she regrouped with her family and other horse owners, who were able to find a trailer spot for Mya.

Now the whole family — horses included — is safe.

COMPASSION

Animals displaced, left behind in crisis



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

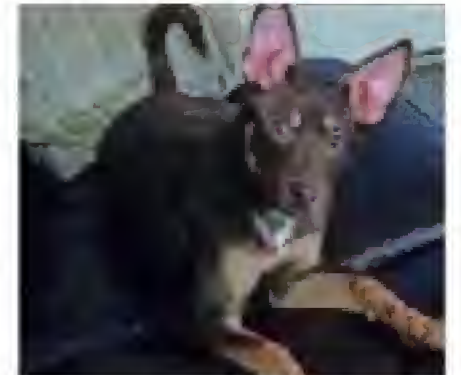
Many animals in Fort McMurray have been displaced or left behind as wildfires continued to burn at "explosive" levels Wednesday.

Deanna Thompson, executive director of the Alberta Animal Rescue Society, said some will be flown to Calgary.

At a news conference Wednesday morning, Fort McMurray Fire Chief Darby Allen said 48 animals saved from homes are at the McDonald Reception Centre. Other animals have not been so lucky.

Allison Wiseman, who fled for Red Deer, said her cousin forgot to pick up his dog, Cuddles, when he and his sister evacuated.

RJ Bailot, executive director with the Alberta Spay Neuter



Cuddles is believed trapped in an apartment. CONTRIBUTED

Task Force, said rescue groups are barred from entering the city to rescue trapped animals.

"It's awful," he said. "We have dogs and cats in homes that are desperate."

Bailot said a Facebook page, Fort McMurray Fire Emergency Animal Assistance, has been created to let owners know which camps and hotels are accepting animals.

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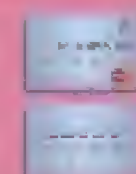
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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster



Highway 63 southbound is closed at Mackenzie Boulevard.

All of Fort McMurray is placed under a mandatory evacuation order, including MacDonald Island.



Highway 63 southbound opens south of Confederation Way.

MAY 3 - 3:39 PM

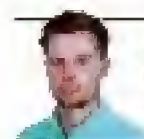
MAY 3 - 6:20 PM

MAY 3 - 8:25 PM

The Fort McMurray evacuation

EMERGENCY

Success was not without some loss of life



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The successful evacuation of 88,000 people from Fort McMurray was a gargantuan undertaking in such a short period of time.

The evacuation orders began Sunday, as Fort McMurray Mayor Melissa Blake signed a local state of emergency, allowing officials to declare evacuation orders for communities.

There was a tragic turn of events Wednesday when an SUV collided head on with a tractor-trailer on High-

way 881, a southern escape road, killing two and shutting down the road in both directions.

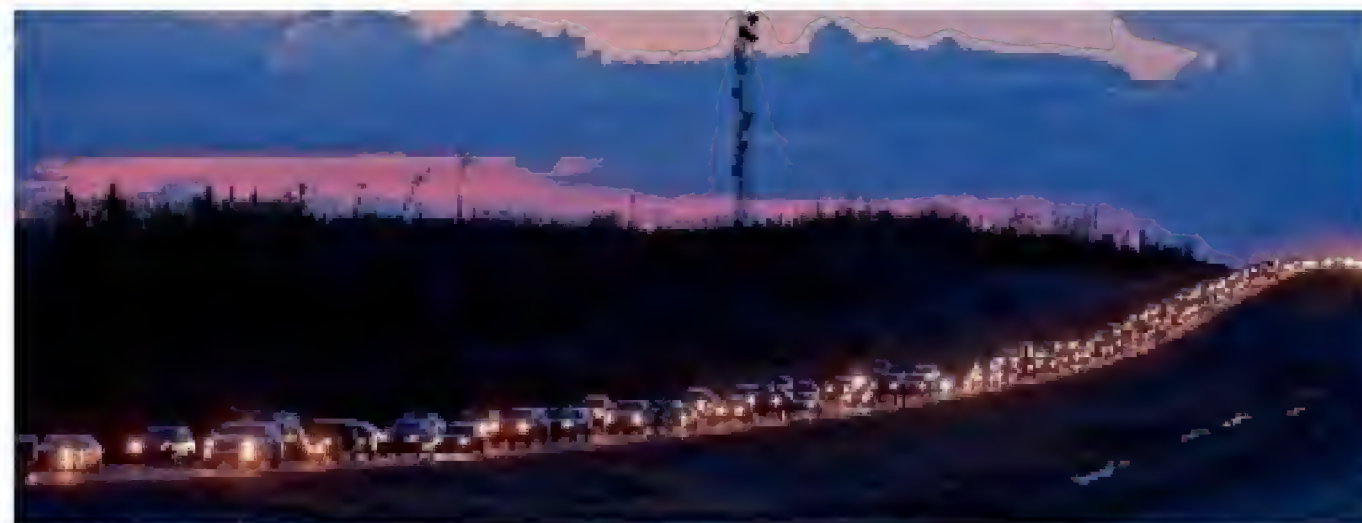
Volunteer evacuation begins

A fleet of buses was commandeered to get Gregoire residents evacuated to Mac Island and residents in Prairie Creek and Centennial Park were started to get moved out.

By early Monday, the volunteer count that was set out had been reached, and those three communities were essentially cleared of residents.

Later that day, after an assessment of the fire, Prairie Creek and Gregoire residents were told they could return home if they chose, but most didn't go back, fearing the situation could escalate.

Mandatory departures ordered



Traffic lines the highway as residents leave Fort McMurray, Alta. on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shifting winds and other weather factors combined to create a perfect storm for the wildfire to shift course and continue bearing down on the city.

At that time, Fort McMurray ordered mandatory evacuation for Beacon Hill, Abasand, Waterways, Draper, Saline Creek,

Grayling Terrace, Downtown, Thickwood, Wood Buffalo and Dickinsfield.

A city divided

It was "the big move," according to Benfield. He said the city decided to split Fort McMurray in two, where those who live south of the bridge would drive south on Highway

63 and those who live north would drive north.

Benfield said he didn't make notes during this time.

At 1 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, there were 75 officers working on doors, directing traffic and using loudspeakers to notify people.

Dozens of others were also on

social media, notifying people online about evacuation information.

"We had to make some decisions based on speed and direction of fire," Benfield said.

"We had to make the best decisions we could with the information we had at the time."

Complete clearance

By 6 p.m. Tuesday, all residents of Fort McMurray were ordered to flee. But by this point, Benfield said most of people were already on the road, either heading north or south as told.

But he commended residents for the smooth evacuation.

"This is where the community came together," he said. "People were helping people. People weren't putting themselves before others — they were trying to help their neighbour and get everybody as quickly as told."

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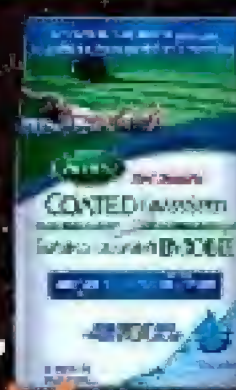
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Buses at Timberlea Extra Foods and Jubilee Centre are set up to take evacuees to Anzac.



Motorists stranded on Highway 63 are asked to stay put as police patrol the area with gas cans.



Edmonton Fire Rescue and the Edmonton Police Service send fleets to help with the Wood Buffalo fires.

MAY 3 - 9:15 PM

MAY 3 - 9:41 PM

MAY 3 - 10:00 PM

SUPPORT

Canada reacts

ONTARIO

The Ontario Natural Resources Ministry announced it would send water-bombing aircraft and more than 100 fire rangers to northern Alberta. The fire-fighters were scheduled to ship out Friday.

Toronto-based charity GlobalMedic was ready to commit aerial drones to help fire-fighters better view the affected areas. The aid organization also offered inflatable housing and water-purification materials.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

B.C. Premier Christy Clark told media Wednesday the province needs to focus on its own wildfires as a blaze continues to ravage Fort McMurray. The province is unable to spare any firefighters to help Alberta's efforts, but Clark says B.C. has done "everything (Alberta) has asked us to do" so far. METRO

CRISIS

Province takes control of 'unstable' situation

Alberta declared a state of emergency Wednesday as crews frantically held back wind-whipped wildfires that have already torched 1,600 homes and other buildings in Fort McMurray, forcing all 80,000 residents to flee.

"The situation in Fort McMurray is not stable. It is unstable," Scott Long of Alberta Emergency Management told reporters in a Wednesday afternoon briefing.

"The downtown core is being held through some Herculean efforts of the structural firefighters in the area."

Municipal Affairs Minister

Danielle Larivee said the state of emergency allows the province to take full control of the situation, conscript people if necessary and bulldoze structures as required.

There were dangerous and dramatic developments on multiple fronts Wednesday in a story that has made headlines worldwide with stunning video footage of trucks and cars driving past sheer walls of flame.

There were haunting images of scorched trucks, charred homes and telephone poles, burned out from the bottom up, hanging in the wires like little wooden crosses.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley flew up to survey the situation first-hand, while officials in the evacuation centre had to bolt to the south of the city as flames edged closer.

The blaze effectively cut Fort McMurray in two late Tuesday,

forcing about 10,000 north to the safety of oilsands work camps.

The other 70,000 were sent streaming south in a bumper-to-bumper snake line of cars and trucks that stretched beyond the horizon. Some vehicles sat in ditches, the victims of engine trouble or a lack of gas.

The displaced arrived in communities of Anzac, Lac La Biche and Edmonton. Some were going as far as Calgary.

Crews had been battling the blaze since Sunday. But the situation turned destructive within minutes on Tuesday afternoon when the blaze, whipped up by winds, roared into the southwest corner of the city.

It engulfed homes in three subdivisions and destroyed vehicles, gas stations and a motel. Most of the homes in the suburbs of Beacon Hill and Waterways were destroyed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A helicopter battles a wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alta., on Wednesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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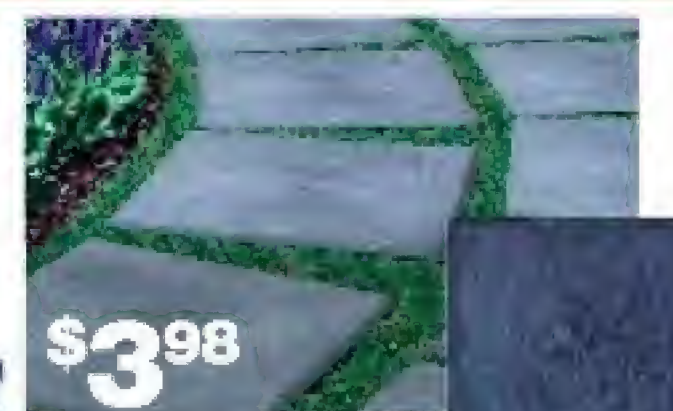


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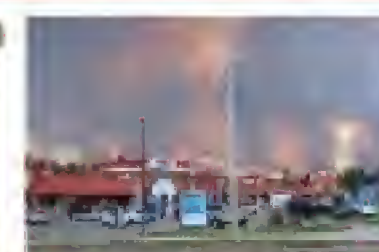


12 Thursday, May 5, 2016

FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster



Highway 63 reopens north of Confederation, but fuel is not readily available.

MAY 4 - 1:20 AM

Trudeau pledges 'total support'

ASSISTANCE

Trudeau pledges federal resources to Fort McMurray

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the federal government will provide all possible assistance to Alberta as wildfires ravage Fort McMurray.

Canada is a country of people who help each other in challenging times, Trudeau told his caucus Wednesday.

"I've been dealing with offers of support and calls from the Atlantic provinces, all the way out to B.C., as people are looking for how they can support their friends and neighbours as people go through this difficult time."

Trudeau urged people with friends or family in Fort McMurray to make sure they are OK and ask what help they need.

Federal leaders called on Canadians who want to help to donate to the Red Cross.

The prime minister said he has already spoken to Alberta Premier Rachel Notley to offer his government's "total support."



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Canada is a country of people who help each other in challenging times. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, in a conference call from Germany early Wednesday, confirmed a formal request for assistance has been received from the Alberta government.

Notley told a news conference that a memorandum of understanding had been signed with National Defence to provide helicopters for search-and-rescue

efforts in isolated spots around Fort McMurray as well as transport aircraft to fly in firefighters.

"Our province is strong and we will get through this," she said.

The office of Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, the federal focal point for assistance, was expected to provide more details later Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PROVINCIAL AGENDAS

Notley won't attend Western Premiers' Conference in B.C.

The disastrous wildfire raging in northern Alberta has forced government leaders in western Canada to tweak their plans to meet in Vancouver later this week and has pushed emergency management towards the front of the meeting's agenda.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley will no longer attend the 2016 Western Premiers' Conference, which is scheduled to run Thursday and Friday.

Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman, who also serves as the province's health minister, will replace Notley as Alberta's representative.

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark, who is hosting the annual gathering, said emergency management will be at the forefront of the discussions

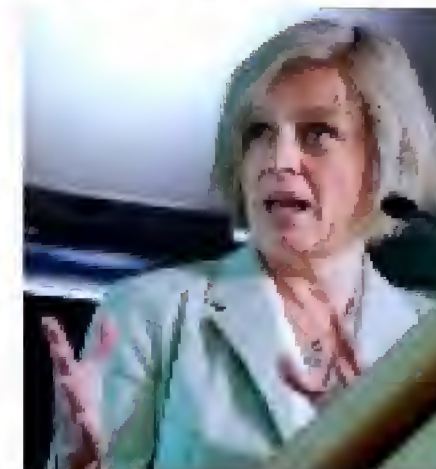
as the blaze in Fort McMurray, Alta., forces tens of thousands to flee the encroaching flames.

"Alberta's in the midst of it at the moment, but every other western province experiences forest fires, floods, concerns about earthquakes and other disasters," Clark said on Wednesday. "So that's going to be a major focus for us."

Still, Clark said much of the conference would also centre around the economy, given what she described as Western Canada's role in a national context.

"We have traditionally been the economic engine of the country for the last decade," she said.

The meeting will also focus on job creation, immigration and infrastructure investment, and she will push her counterparts to



Premier Rachel Notley gives an update on the wildfire near Fort McMurray. CODIE MCLACHLAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

reach consensus on renegotiating a softwood lumber deal with the United States, Clark said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

7.5K

Officials say the out-of-control conflagration spans between 7,500 and 10,000 hectares.



Wood Buffalo announces 88,000 people have been evacuated, with no reports of injury.

A boil-water advisory is issued for the entire region.

MAY 4 - 10:00 AM >>>

MAY 4 - 10:28 AM >>>

MAY 4 - 11:06 AM >>>

A world up in smoke

As fire ravages Fort McMurray, Alta., these images depict some harrowing scenes from the carnage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**SURREAL VIEW**

This photo taken through a car windshield shows smoke rising from a wildfire as it rages outside of Fort McMurray on Tuesday. The entire population of the Canadian oil sands city had been ordered to evacuate as the wildfire whipped by winds engulfed homes and sent ash raining down on residents. MARY ANNE SEXSMITH-SEGATO/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAVING WHAT THEY CAN Family pictures packed in suitcases are seen as a family of evacuees camp out on their van at a beach south of Fort McMurray on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



FUEL FOR THE ROAD AHEAD People gather for gas being handed out at a rest stop near Fort McMurray on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

Officials update damage to homes, including a 90 per cent loss in the Waterways neighbourhood, 70 per cent in Beacon Hill and 50 per cent in Abasand. In total, roughly 1,600 structures have been destroyed.



The Alberta government declares a state of emergency.

The fire breaches the intersection of Highway 63 and Highway 69, so no traffic can pass northbound or southbound

MAY 4 - 12:30 PM

MAY 4 - 3:30 PM

MAY 4 - 4:05 PM



Raging forest fires whipped up by shifting winds sliced through the middle of the remote oilsands hub city of Fort McMurray, prompting the evacuation of the entire city.

TERRY REITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

COVERAGE

Track all expenses: Insurance companies

Insurance providers are preparing to assess the damage from a massive fire still burning in Fort McMurray, Alta., that has charred homes, cars and other treasured possessions.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada is urging those who have been forced to leave the city to contact their insurance providers and keep track of all their expenses.

"Insurers are mobilized and will answer questions," said IBC spokesman Steve Kee.

Home insurance typically provides coverage for the property, the possessions inside

and living expenses incurred while unable to stay in the residence, said Rocco Neglia, vice-president of claims at Economical Insurance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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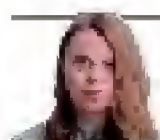
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Oil, gas firms tend to needy

SHELTER

Focus on relief effort rather than business



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Alberta's oil and gas companies are scaling back to essential workers, are housing evacuees and are even shutting down facilities as wildfires continue to threaten Fort McMurray, Alta.

As 88,000 people fled the immediate region of Fort McMurray — seeking refuge in several camps set up to house evacuees — companies such as Suncor, Shell and Imperial Oil and Husky were being run on bare-bone crews.

On Wednesday, Shell said it made the decision to focus on getting employees and their families out of the region while also freeing up room at its 2,000-person work camp for some of the 80,000 people

who were ordered evacuated Tuesday from Fort McMurray.

Shell's mining operation is located about 70 kilometres north of the city.

"Right now, our priority is providing support for our people, their loved ones and others in the area," Shell spokesman Cameron Yost said in an email. "Our work camp, the Albian Village, is now open to all evacuated Fort McMurray residents."

Others, like Calgary-based Husky Energy, whose site is some 60 kilometres from the fire, said it's business as usual.

"We have opened our camp facilities to evacuees, and we're helping in any way we can," said Mel Duvall, spokesman for Husky.

Suncor Energy spokesman Paul Newmarch said that company has evacuated all non-essential employees from the operations across the region.

Imperial Oil hasn't had any impact to operations, but is reducing staff to essential workers at the Kurel oil sands mine while keeping a close eye on the situation as it develops.

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Earls has changed its position and will return to serving Alberta beef. JENNIFER FRIESEN / FOR METRO

Earls sticks to local beef

DINING

Chain to get humane meat from both U.S. and Canada

The Earls restaurant chain says it will start serving Canadian beef again following a recent uproar over its decision to switch to meat without added hormones from the United States.

The Vancouver-based company, which has 26 of its 66 locations in Alberta, said last week that it would serve only beef with the U.S.-based Certified Humane designation, raised without the use of antibiotics, steroids or added hormones.

Earls president Mo Jessa said Wednesday the company "made a mistake" when it moved away from local beef. But to meet its supply needs while keeping its ethical standards, the chain will have to serve both Canadian and U.S. meat, he said.

"This is not going to be easy. There's a supply issue for the criteria that we need. We're going to have to work very hard to find more local ranchers," he said in an interview. "We're prepared to go back and address it, because it's important to Canadians and

our consumers. It's important to Albertans and it's important to us."

The chain began buying Certified Humane beef from an Alberta supplier about two years ago for select locations. But when it decided to serve only Certified Humane beef in all its restaurants, it couldn't find a Canadian supplier able to meet the high demand, Jessa said.

Earls switched to a Kansas supplier because it's simpler to buy from a single source, but Jessa said the chain will start buying from multiple suppliers.

He said he couldn't confirm a timeline for when Earls will begin serving Alberta beef, but the chain plans to work quickly to source as much meat from Canada as possible. It isn't planning to differentiate between U.S. and Canadian beef on menus, he said.

The chain has not reneged on its deal with the Kansas supplier and will not remove marketing materials from restaurants promoting the switch to Certified Humane, he added.

Industry advocates say Canadian codes of practice for beef cattle are also similar to the Certified Humane requirements. However, the codes of practice are guidelines that are not enforced through inspections. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We're going to have to work very hard to find more local ranchers."
Mo Jessa

CITY PLANNING

Wayfinder Project signs coming soon



Sanam Islam
For Metro | Edmonton

The city's wayfinding team says it's close to finalizing its design standard for 86 new pedestrian signs expected to go up around Edmonton by next spring.

"It's been a bit of a journey ... the signage will be lit, which was really critical for the Winter City strategy folks. Certainly our seasons are a little bit darker. There was also discussion of colouring and what would stand out from a distance," said Ian

Hosler, project manager for the Wayfinder Project, which held an open house Tuesday to present the latest design standard to stakeholders and members of the public.

Hosler said once the design standard is approved, he hopes to have the tender finalized by June so that the city can roll out interim signage in August.

"It will help support pedestrian movement around the new Rogers Place arena. We know the permanent signage won't neces-

86

The number of new pedestrian signs expected to go up this spring.

sarily be ready, and some of the places — such as the area of construction of the LRT on 103rd Avenue — would preclude us from putting permanent signage there until it's finished," Hosler said.

Since the design of the temporary signage will be the same — excluding the lighting — it will also allow the Wayfinder team to test out the effectiveness of the signs, Hosler said.

The Wayfinder Project is also currently working on mapping

to support the interim signage and is moving toward tender for a digital product.

He said the aim is to have consistency among physical maps, a web map and potentially a phone app.

"There's good evidence that (this project) will increase the footfall of businesses, people will have more confidence in navigating downtown and exploring new areas that they might not have otherwise, and it potentially drives people to more multi-modal journeys using the LRT, pedways and bus routes," he said.



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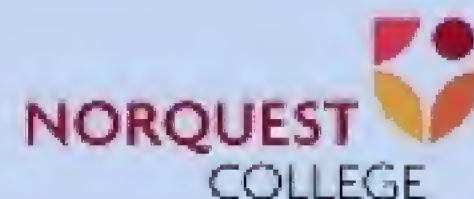
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POLICE

Teens charged in murder

Two teenage girls have been charged in the north Edmonton slaying of 50-year-old Bruce Peter MacDonald.

Police found a man who had been stabbed after they were called to 129 Avenue and 58 Street, near the Belvedere LRT station parking lot March 27 around 2:23 a.m. The man was treated and taken to hospital, where he later died.

The suspects cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. METRO

St. Albert man arrested for hit-and-run, impaired driving

A St. Albert man faces a dozen charges, including impaired driving, after a fatal hit-and-run that killed a 29-year-old Edmonton man and sent several others to hospital.

Police say a Dodge

Avenger struck a Chevrolet Cavalier from behind, sending the Cavalier spinning into eastbound lanes where it collided with a Mitsubishi Lancer. The Cavalier's lone passenger was thrown from the vehicle and pronounced dead on scene, while its driver was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Michael Beverly Gress, 36, faces a string of charges. METRO

TRANSIT

LRT will go ahead: councillor



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

A city councillor said there will be no backtracking on the Valley Line LRT, after meeting with members of a group that is protesting the project.

Knack and Coun. Scott McKeen met with members of the Save Edmonton's Downtown Footbridge group on Monday, who are pressing the city to halt the \$1.8-billion project and abandon LRT development in favour of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

"Some people are suggesting that it's BRT versus LRT, which I think is actually not the right approach," Knack said, adding he would like to see faster progress on BRT but both need to be used together.

Two members of the anti-LRT group were arrested while protesting at Valley Line construction sites in the river valley last weekend and have since been charged with mischief.

The group is fighting to preserve the Cloverdale footbridge, which will be knocked down as part of LRT development — though a new pedestrian footbridge will be part of the Valley Line corridor.

Knack said he went to every public meeting on the West LRT line for six years prior to being elected and he is confident the city has done its due diligence on LRT plans.

"They did approach every permutation and combination you could hope for," Knack said.

"I'm not sure I see the value in trying to stop such a critical piece of infrastructure."

RUSSELL WANGERSKY: WE'RE WITH YOU, FORT MCMURRAY



One thing you can say about our history of moving west for work? It stretches families far apart, but it weaves us together across a big country.

They're talking about Fort McMurray on the St. John's, N.L. Metrobus.

People don't usually talk much on the Metrobus, you understand. But they're talking today, and it's a conversation being heard across the Atlantic provinces, from Tim Hortons in Sydney to small towns in the Annapolis Valley. A simple trip online finds reporters from Newfoundland to Charlottetown to Halifax asking Atlantic Canadians in Alberta to get in touch.

The talk started Tuesday night with the first evacuation order in Fort McMurray. Social media lit up with first-hand tweets and Facebook posts about the fire. Soon, there was a complete evacuation, video showing the fire terrifyingly close, and people at this end of the country posting information about how to make telephone donations to the Red Cross.

On Wednesday, fire officials were watching the weather, expecting wind, and posting grim lists of the areas hardest hit by the advancing fire: "Beacon Hill — 80 per cent loss of homes; Timberlea — 12 trailers lost on McKinlay Cres."

For so many East Coast workers and their families, Fort McMurray is a long way west, but also the worksite next door.

The oilpatch may be slowing, but it's far from stopped: scores of Atlantic Canadians either travel there for work or have moved to the northern

Alberta city, putting down roots. Some people (not completely glibly) call it Newfoundland and Labrador's second largest city. Cape Breton could say the same.

It's the great class equalizer on many East Coast flights: workers sometimes use their frequent flyer status to move up into first class, bringing baseball caps and work jackets into the rarefied land of Air Canada's Zone 1.

near as a nephew or niece.

At The Telegram in St. John's, the news editor reposted Tweets in almost real-time from his nephews, their car turned around by a transformer explosion and forced north out of the city.

One of The Telegram's reporters used to work at Fort McMurray Today, the city's main newspaper; his daughter, born in the Alberta city, made her parents turn off the

sleep here in my bed."

In the office next to mine, an editor hasn't slept, following a friend's journey — husband, wife, seven-year-old twins and the family dog — north out of Fort McMurray, into huge highway gridlock, then south again, taking their chances along a previously closed highway, until there's a 1:30 a.m. post saying they are safely out of range of the fire: "We were 8 hrs in our car and finally made it out ... It's surreal to not know what exactly we are facing in the next few days."

One thing you can say about our history of moving west for work?

It stretches families far apart but it weaves us together across a big country, as well.

I remember, years ago, talking to a woman who ran a lounge in a small town on the southern tip of Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. The town was too small to keep the lounge running, so it was closed most of the time. We were in an airplane, heading west, but she'd flown east to open the lounge for a wake.

She lived in Fort McMurray, working as a manager in a hardware store. Her husband was driving a dump truck at Syncrude — her son, too. At the time, one daughter was working at a rape crisis centre, the other at a vet's office.

Every time there was a wedding or a funeral, she'd fly home to open the only lounge in the area.

There are ties that go both ways, regardless of the distance. And Fort Mac is on Eastern Canadian minds and lips today.

Russell Wangersky is the Atlantic region columnist for TC Media.



HANG IN THERE You don't have to tell people on the East Coast about the devastation in Alberta — the oilpatch is 'as near as a nephew or niece,' Russell Wangersky writes.

MICHAEL DE ADDER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It also means that Fort McMurray is far closer than geography suggests.

By Wednesday morning, Edmonton was expecting 20,000 evacuees, and thousands more had gone north. It's an evacuation of astounding proportions and it's touching people across this region quickly, people wondering and worrying about friends and family on the move.

How close to home is Fort Mac to people on the East Coast? You don't have to tell anyone here about it — it's as

television because she can't watch the fire burning places she knows.

And there's this exchange, posted on Facebook by my niece, recounting a conversation with her four-year-old about my niece's sister in Fort McMurray:

"Mommy what's going on?"
"It's a fire, sweetheart."
"Is Auntie Christina OK?"
"Yes buddy."
"Does she still have a bed?"
"I don't think so, sweet pea."
"It's OK mommy. She can

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview



Of course Alberta's wildfire is political. Everything is political.

Burnt-out cars, charred and flattened homes, air soft with smoke in a grey-hued sunrise. The fire had eaten much on its first terrible day, before growing ever wilder and uncontrolled.

"It was just like an apocalypse," one man told CBC Radio, of the walls of flame that lined the highways and kissed the treetops and the black inferno sky above Fort McMurray: the heart of the oilsands.

Until submerged in a fire of biblical proportions, Fort Mac had long functioned as a kind of shorthand for Alberta vs. Canada animosity. The place where bitumen was squeezed from sand, imagined and unvisited by most Canadians who nonetheless hold some opinion about our economic dependence on the oil industry and the threat of climate change.

(Never mind that Fort Mac runs on the work of average Canadians, the brains of the oilsands reside elsewhere.)

Local fire chief Darby Allen called it a "nasty, dirty" fire, adjectives uttered in the past to describe the belabored way oil companies extract their resource from the land, transforming it.

And that metaphor, of Fort McMurray as the heart of oilsands darkness, was on the minds of some as the fire broke: "I'm glad the #FortMacFire is happening in the

province most responsible for causing climate change that caused the fire in the first place," tweeted one Vancouver man, displaying gross callousness, even if many others had already, silently, seen a terrible irony.

Far more measured was Elizabeth May who, pressed by reporters, called it "a disaster that is very related to the global climate crisis," according to the National Observer.

Most perversely, some even accused a "disgusting" Alberta Premier Rachel Notley of using the fire to appear to care about an oil town in a display of crass opportunism.

The larger story, of course, has been national dismay at the unfolding tragedy and an unusually united amount of love flowing towards the oil rigs.

But wistful calls for everyone to set aside politics ring false. A wildfire may be indiscriminate, but people and places are always political. Inevitably, they taint events, and they will taint this, too.

Before it is satiated, the fire will devastate tens of thousands of people, and the miracle is that no one has died.

The politics is, as always, as you see it. As for any kind of reckoning, the most important is to come, when those forced to flee return to tally what is left of their lives.

Fort McMurray is far closer than geography suggests.

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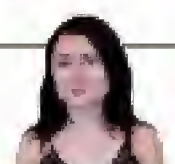
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You are not what you do

INTERVIEW

Chasing a dream job becomes futile for character

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



A friend and former colleague who works in journalism once explained her theory about the difference between a "dream job" and a "fantasy job."

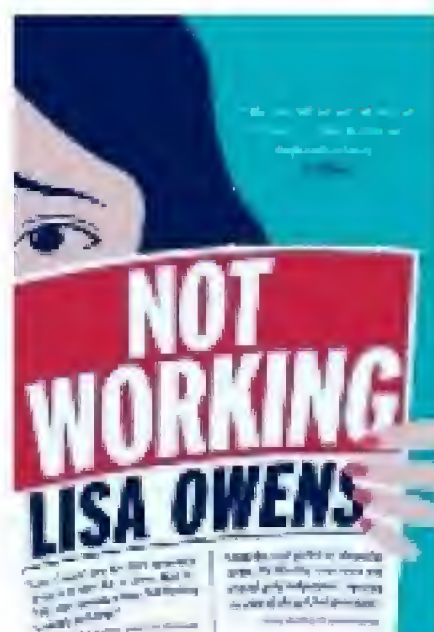
The dream job is attainable; it's something you work towards, she says. A fantasy job is what you wish you were doing when you're totally burnt out. (Hers was municipal parks worker. Mine? Marine biologist.)

But for many adults who don't have a defined career path, the dream job, too, might as well be imaginary.

That's the case in *Not Working*, the first novel from Lisa Owens, 30, in which the main character Claire Flannery quits a "creative communications" job she dislikes to figure out what she really wants to do.

Claire's time off is spent loitering in coffee shops, pressuring busy friends into just one more drink at the bar, and watching grotesque online videos.

"She has this grand idea that it's going to be this journey of self-discovery that she can direct, and that she can make



herself a better person. Instead it becomes this introspective time of inertia," says Owens.

Her character is smart but self-destructive — a lovable screwball with knack for pointed observation, even in a hung-over state.

"Did you not even get dressed?" asks Claire's boyfriend, a doctor, as he comes home to find her re-watching a clip of a sperm whale being dissected. By this point, she has given up on Ulysses.

The idea for the story was partly influenced by a stretch of time off Owens had in between jobs a few years ago.

"I was going to go to all these art galleries and do all of this cultural stuff," says Owens. In reality, she watched a lot of TV and met friends for lunch, which wasn't fun because unlike her, they were busy.

"I was very much aware that everyone else I knew was working on a different clock. If I

hadn't had a job to go back to, how would that have felt?" she says, of how the idea formed.

One impact of this idleness on Claire is anxiety — she inspects every mole with the same suspicion she applies to her well-meaning boyfriend's attempt at words of encouragement.

Without a job and daily routine, everything else suddenly starts to come into question, says Owens, and they do for Claire. Should she be going to the gym more? Is it too late to have children? Does she even like living in London?

The character is in her late twenties, though her exact age is never specified in the book. She's relatable to anyone who has ever dreaded the question "So what do you do?" at a party.

"I think there's a certain pressure on my generation to think that you should feel like, this amazing sense of fulfillment in your day job and I think it can actually be quite dangerous and quite tough ... on people like Claire, who don't really know what that is," says Owens.

The danger, she adds, is they may feel like they're wasting away their potential by working a job that's just a 9 to 5.

"So that was definitely something I wanted to challenge — that idea that 'oh, you should just be absolutely loving everything you do.'"

Chasing a dream job, then, is probably a waste of time — it doesn't necessarily exist, says Owens.



There is a lot of pressure on her generation to find that "dream job," even though that ideal 9-to-5 doesn't exist, says author **Lisa Owens, 30**. COURTESY ALEXANDER JAMES



The *Good Witch* has Cassie Nightingale smiling enigmatically — a lot. CONTRIBUTED



JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Good Witch is a dangerous treacle

THE SHOW: *Good Witch*, Season 2, Episode 2 (W)
THE MOMENT: Cassie's advice

Cassie Nightingale (Catherine Bell), who magically sells customers whatever they need, is training a new salesgirl in her store (or rather, shoppe), Bell Book and Candle — located on Main Street in Middleton, USA, where it's always Christmas or Halloween. The salesgirl had some accident with her hands, which prevents her from pur-

suing her dream job. (Or something like that. I might have dozed off. Trust me, it doesn't matter.)

"How can I help?" the salesgirl asks.

"Oh, there's always something to be done at the Bell Book and Candle," Cassie says, smiling enigmatically.

Sure enough, the salesgirl solders a glass box. She's cured!

I have to apologize to the women of North America. I knew you were tired, but I didn't know you were this

tired. The only reason anyone could watch this show is that they're so stressed, they need this tranquilizer in television form.

Every moment of the series is the same moment, engineered to lull viewers into a Chardonnay coma: Somebody asks Cassie what he/she should do, and she smiles enigmatically (her sole expression, because her face is frozen stiff).

I actually worry about *Good Witch* falling into the wrong hands — this is some weapons-

grade treacle. Vladimir Putin could become the showrunner, bore us into submissive somnolence, and take over Canada while we nap.

So if you're ever on the subway home thinking, "I'm so wrung out, maybe I'll watch *Good Witch*," call me instead and I'll come brush your hair. No one should be this tired.

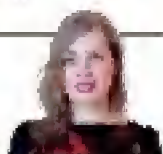
Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Stories of the variety store

DEBUT NOVEL

Author sheds light on Korean immigrant experience

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Sometimes it takes a little push from an unlikely place to fulfil a personal dream. For Ann Choi, a guidance counsellor at a Toronto high school, it came in 2007 when she asked a struggling student what he wanted to do with his life. He responded by asking her the same question right back. Not wanting to be a hypocrite, Choi answered quickly. After all, she knew exactly what she wanted: to write a book.

"That night I went home and did a lot of soul searching and from that moment on, I committed to writing," she says.

Choi also knew exactly what she wanted to write. Since the early 1990s, she had been holding onto story ideas about the Korean immigrant experience, specifically those of young women who felt torn between the demands of their parents and the desire to be a "typical" Canadian teenager. As a sociology major at University of Toronto, she had worked on a project interviewing Korean-Canadian women and discovered many shared a similar narrative. "There was a lot of frustration with cultural expectations and the immigrant dream," Choi says. "And a lot of frustration with our mothers. We felt a sense of burden because 90 per cent or more of our parents were variety-store owners."

A composite of those women, and her own life, became the inspiration for Mary — or Yu-Rhee — the protagonist of Choi's debut novel, *Kay's Lucky Coin Variety*, published by Simon & Schuster Canada. Mary, who lives above her parents' convenience store, struggles with hor-



Author Ann Choi captures the shrinking generation of Korean variety-store owners in her debut novel, *Kay's Lucky Coin Variety*. HANDOUT

monally charged teenage emotions and experiences, but still must act like an adult, knowing very well that her first priority is always to her family's business and livelihood — as her mother never lets her forget.

"When other kids got to hang out at the mall after school, most of us were stamping packages of instant soup or working the cash register," Choi says.

For those in the community, *Kay's Lucky Coin Variety* will resonate in its accuracy and details, but for those who only head into their local convenience stores for milk and newspapers, the book is a revealing look into private lives. "While most everyone knows a Korean shopkeeper, most people won't know about the story behind the counter," says Choi.

For Mary's family — and Choi's, who owned a store on

Toronto's Queen West — that meant a life of where families could never eat meals together, and community get-togethers happened late at night. While growing up, Choi loved the intersection of people that came into the store, but it could also be a very scary place, as her character Mary horrifyingly learns.

Choi was also motivated to tell Mary's story to document the shrinking generation of Korean variety-store owners, as a way to both educate her own 16-year-old daughter and to draw attention to the culture for which she has such pride.

"I wanted to capture all this," she says. "The Korean variety-store generation is now dying off. Our parents sacrificed and put us through school and now, my brothers and I, we don't work in variety stores anymore. Unless we write these stories down my daughter will never know what my parents did, and I did, and what our lives were like."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

JUDY BLUME

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IN THE Unlikely EVENT

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When other kids got to hang out at the mall after school, most of us were stamping packages of instant soup or working the cash register Ann Choi

Put away those gaming consoles

ANALYSIS

Author says video games, porn add to men's struggles

Too many young men are floundering academically and socially. Rather than deal with the difficult real world, they're getting lost in the virtual realities of video games and online pornography.

That's the message in psychologist and Stanford University professor emeritus Philip Zimbardo's new book, *Man Interrupted: Why Young Men are Struggling and What We Can Do about It*.

The launch into adulthood has never been easy. What's the evidence that young men are struggling more now?

There are high dropout rates for young males from high school and college.

About 70 per cent of high school kids in remedial programs are boys. Women now earn more academic degrees, including medicine, law, business, and Ph.D.s, than men.

Evidence shows that young men are more likely than young women to live with

their parents rather than on their own. This is not a phase.

Unless there's recognition of this problem and steps taken, it will only get worse.

You call video games and online porn "the deadly duo." What do you mean?

Video games are designed to be addictive. For some young males, it's the only place in their lives where they get recognition, attention, rewards.

There's an illusion of connectedness, playing with or against others. They think, here's a world where I can be somebody, all I have to do is keep playing and I'll get better.

The new problem is when they combine that with pornography, which has never before been so accessible.

For some young males, it's fascinating and becomes addictive. But it objectifies women and takes all the romance out of sex. The problem with real sex is you have an orgasm, then what? You have to talk to somebody. With porn sex, you can just go back to playing video games. Some young men now prefer porn to sex.

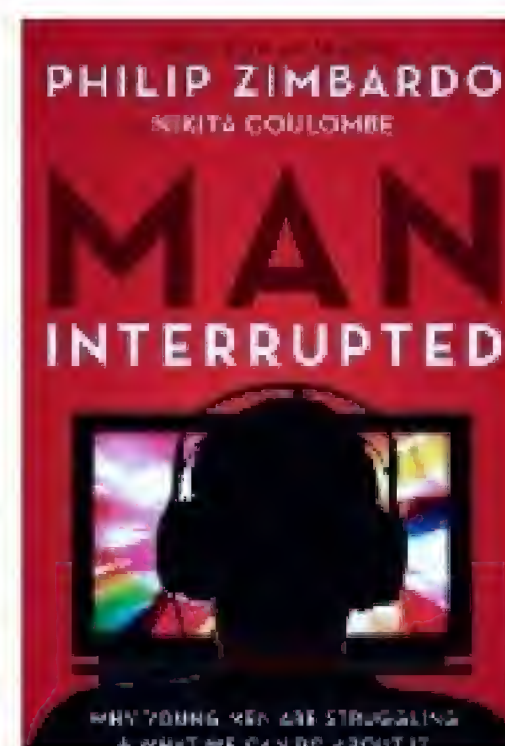
How does online porn affect sexual expectations?

All the men are super studs

with enormous penises. They have instant erections that last at least 20 minutes. Young males think that's what I need to satisfy a woman. They don't see the editing or penile injections. We have a lot of evidence that the more they watch, the more likely they'll

have difficulty having an erection.

The arousal centre of the brain has been dulled and constantly needs new kinds of stimulation. It's porn-induced erectile dysfunction.



COMICS

With glowing hearts, we go to battle

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

WE STAND ON GUARD

BY: Brian K. Vaughan and Steve Skroce

PUBLISHER: Image Comics

It's 100 years in the future, and Canada is under attack from its greatest enemy: the United States of America.

This is *We Stand On Guard*, the utterly delicious tale of a plucky group of ordinary Canadians facing up to U.S. aggression in a future-tech battle fest that can't possibly disappoint anyone with an adventurous spirit and a concerned eye on Donald Trump.

The fun aspect is obvious, but the adventure thing is part of the cleverness of Vaughan, the award-winning writer of so many other amazing things.

He's made so many rewarding books, especially space opera *Saga*, with Calgary's Fiona Staples, and the wide-ranging apocalyptic adventure *Y The Last Man*, with Pia Guerra.

Both of those are available in collections and are highly recommended as sassy, inventive works.

This week, *We Stand On Guard* gets the deluxe hardcover treatment, collecting all six issues and including bonus material like new sketches.

It's been compared to *Y The Last Man*, and that's reason enough to get it.

Why are boys more prone to video game and porn over-use than girls?

In general, boys are more excited visually. But the bottom line is that the makers of video games and porn tend to be men designing for men. A lot of video games are adversarial, playing into the whole male ego of competition and domination.

In the future, companies may modify video games content and porn to lure millions of women.

What do you consider over-use of video games?

To me, five hours or more a day is excessive. It means you're not doing all the other things that would make you a well-rounded person.

You're not developing any talent other than being a video game player.

Have economic changes, especially manufacturing job losses, played into the demise of guys?

It's hard to get a job unless you're well-educated and even then there's increasing competition. People are being replaced by robots and computer technology.

The world is a scarier, less predictable place, but there's still the assumption that the man is the bread winner. We carry the old model in our heads even though it doesn't fit reality.

What are some ways to help young males?

Many kids are growing up with single mothers. They've lost male models and companionship in their lives.

Men need to step up and be mentors to young males, do guy things together, talk to boys about their future.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Philip Zimbardo argues video games and online porn are a "deadly duo" for young men. HANDOUT



How Marcia went from punchline to real person

CRIME

Former O.J. Simpson prosecutor now an author

In the televised "15-month nightmare" that was the O.J. Simpson trial, Marcia Clark woke up beaten. "I was just so burnt out. I was emotionally depleted, physically depleted," says the former prosecutor. "I couldn't even conceive of walking back into the courtroom."

She became a kind of punchline, the lawyer who bungled the Trial of the Century, a perceived slam dunk out of the gate. From Saturday Night Live skits in the 1990s to a Tina Fey parody on Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt last year, Clark was a long-running joke.

But in 2016, more than 20 years later, she's newly venerated, much in thanks to the FX miniseries depicting her courtroom nightmare: American Crime Story, in which actress Sarah Paulson played the former prosecutor to much acclaim, including Clark's. "We are now understood more like real people instead of cartoons," says Clark, who credits the popular series for adding "more layers" to her media portrayal, going behind the scenes with her and legal partner Chris Darden, whom she calls her "rock" during the trial. "Whenever there's a major



Marcia Clark, former O.J. Simpson prosecutor, has a new book out called Blood Defense, the same year that FX miniseries American Crime Story brought the Trial of the Century back into the spotlight. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

public event that gets covered for a period of time everybody kind of winds up being caricatured. That happened to all of us, too."

The anthology series ended its first season in April, but the year is just beginning for Clark, who has become a successful crime novelist. Her latest is called Blood Defense and follows a criminal defence lawyer handling a high-profile double-murder case, which Clark knows a thing or two about.

The O.J. Simpson trial began in 1994 after the murders of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown

Simpson, and waiter Ron Goldman. Simpson was acquitted of all charges after a defence team led by Johnnie Cochran presented the argument he'd been framed by a racist LAPD, a strategy that many feel distracted from the victims.

"Ron and Nicole were the only two words not spoken in that trial," says Clark.

Dubbed the "Trial of the Century," it was one of the most publicized trials in American history and high profile was what Clark had always wanted as part of the Special Trials Unit in

the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. "High profile meant that maybe a reporter showed up at the arraignment. Your picture was never taken. They barely got your name right if they mentioned your name at all; that was high profile," she says.

But for Clark on the O.J. trial, high profile meant public scrutiny. Naturally, watching the show brought on a "weird mix of emotions," she says. "It's very difficult to go back and remember everything. It digs up all the memories; the pain and the sadness, and the sense of futility that we felt for the whole tenancy of the case."

She'll be reminded again in June, when CTV and ESPN air a new documentary called O.J.: Made in America.

But a silver lining for the formerly misunderstood attorney is that she's become a kind of millennial idol with the FX series. Many of the show's viewers were in diapers when the trial made headlines. They're watching with a different, "much hipper" perspective than their parents, Clark has noticed.

As for the man at the centre of her televised nightmare two decades ago, Simpson is in prison on unrelated charges and is eligible for parole in 2017.

Is there any doubt in Clark's mind that he committed those murders in 1994?

"How could there be any?" she asks. "None."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE FACES OF MARCIA CLARK



Saturday Night Live

Always poised to tackle current events, SNL parodied the trial in the '90s, featuring comedians Laura Kightlinger and Nancy Carell (née Walls).

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

The Netflix series brought on co-creator Tina Fey and comedian Jerry Minor for three episodes as Clark and Chris Darden in harsh portrayals as buffoons.



American Tragedy

Lawrence Schiller brought his own book to the TV screen in 2000 with this TV movie, which focused more on the defence team and had Diana LaMar playing Clark.



The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story

The Ryan Murphy-produced anthology series starred Sarah Paulson as Clark. Her performance was critically lauded and more sentimental than earlier portrayals.

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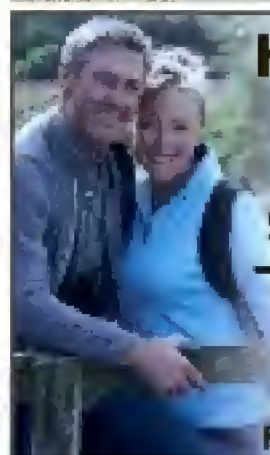
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8	4	1	2	6	7	3	5	9
4	6	5	9	7	8	9	1	2
9	8	2	4	1	5	6	3	7
7	1	3	6	2	9	8	4	5

The gift of her

Henrietta Walmark

An annual ritual I share with my ex-husband amuses our daughter, Sofia. On Mother's Day, he thanks me for the gift of her. And I reciprocate on Father's Day. Best thing we ever did, her father and I say to one another in earnest, to eye rolls from the object of our affection.

Sofia was 10 when her dad and I split up, but the tradition of gratitude continued with the three of us gathering for Mother's Day brunches at a local restaurant, a favourite place where we celebrated family occasions and milestones until her father moved to Indonesia six years ago.

Being Sofia's 'mum' — a British-ism acquired honestly from her very English granny — has meant having an ongoing and affectionate relationship with her dad.

That she thanks us for setting an example of mutual respect is more satisfying than any gift or a decadent meal. Which is just as well, as she is 1,400 km away studying at university and we won't be seeing each other

“

Trying to keep up with her fierce intelligence and wild streak has reshaped my life. This Mother's Day, I'll celebrate the great adventure of being her mum.

for Mother's Day this year.

Still our mother-daughter connection runs deep. I was invited to her over-the-top 30th birthday bash last month where all the other guests were 20-something. I had a blast. The party pushed me out of my comfort zone, like so many experiences we've shared.

I ventured into new neighbourhoods and venues at all hours when teenage Sofia's plans went awry. She still apologizes to me for those particularly challenging years.

She introduced arty me to the beauty of pure mathematics and physics, which is what you might expect

from a kid who has Euler's equation inked on the inside of her wrist.

Thanks to Sofia, I was no bourgeois soccer mom; I was a circus mom. After several years on the sidelines watching as my preteen daughter mastered flying trapeze, I was coaxed into trying it myself and then kept at it for eight years.

Trying to keep up with her fierce intelligence and wild streak has reshaped my life. This Mother's Day, I'll celebrate the great adventure of being her mum. I'll mourn a second pregnancy that ended in miscarriage. I'll think of friends who long for a child yet can't conceive, and of those who have lost their mothers. I'll remember the deep affection I shared with my former mother-in-law and her long-time companion. I'll recall last year's sweet and unexpected Mother's Day call from my former son-in-law. And I'll spend the day with my amazing mom.

Oh, and I'll be waiting to hear from Sofia's dad. I'll smile to think of Sofia rolling her eyes even though she won't be here when he thanks me yet again for the gift of her.



Henrietta Walmark with daughter Sofia — then 5, now 30 — in Maine together in 1991. CONTRIBUTED

Something a little unexpected

You've given her the tulips, a big box of chocolates, you've even wrapped up some bath salts, body wash or scented soaps. All lovely sentiments for Mother's Day. This year you're looking to give something more unique and a little unexpected. Astrid Van Den Broek shares some ideas.

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MEET THE CONDO

Townhomes in south Edmonton

PIVOT TOWNHOMES



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Pivot is a collection of contemporary townhomes in Rutherford, offering private terraces and surrounding natural amenities for homeowners looking for room to breathe. The meandering roads and front driveways help create a collection of true family homes for solo buyers, families or downsizers.

Housing amenities

Pivot homes are modern three and four-storey townhomes — some with front and back yards, and fourth-storey terraces — and all with European-inspired interiors. Units have nine-foot ceilings, open plans, contemporary flooring and kitchens with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. There's lots of closet space and large windows too.

Location and transit

Rutherford is an established neighbourhood close to Ellerslie Road and Highway 2, the Anthony Henday and Whitemud. Four bus stops provide direct transit access close to the townhomes, and it's within walking distance of the future LRT expansion and just five minutes from Century Park LRT station.

In the neighbourhood

Great for families, Pivot is across from a K-9 school. The mature area also offers nearby shopping, dining and services at South Edmonton Common. The south side community boasts recreation and walkable streets, and is just 15 minutes from downtown, West Edmonton Mall and the University.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: Pivot townhomes
Builder/designer: Averton Homes
Location: Rutherford in South Edmonton
Building: Contemporary townhomes with private terraces and front driveways
Sizes: 1,077 sq. ft. – 2,048

sq. ft.
Pricing: Low \$290s to \$600s
Model: Two, three and four-bedroom, 1.5 to 3.5 bath units
Status/occupancy: Now previewing
Phone: 780-701-7296
Website: averton.ca

CRAFTING

DIY heirloom tea towels for Mother's Day

Pretty tea towels are a useful addition to any kitchen and are extra special when printed with cherished family recipes.

Turn treasured recipes into thoughtful keepsake gifts perfect for Mother's Day using iron-on transfers.

Raid your family's recipe box for that treasured recipe to make these gorgeous towels.

Then wrap them up with baker's twine with a special cookbook and you've created a unique gift.

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies

You will need:

- A cotton or linen tea towel
- Iron-on transfers for light-coloured fabric
- Handwritten recipe
- Iron (you don't need a steam setting)
- A scanner, computer and printer

Step 2: Choose a

recipe and scan it into a computer

Scan the recipe. We scanned the image in colour and again in black and white. Alter the image using image software if you like.

REMEMBER

Ensure that you "mirror" or "flip" the image so that it prints backwards and the recipe can be read.

Step 3: Print it out

Before selecting the image to be printed ensure that you remember to "mirror" or "flip" the image so that it prints backwards. When you iron it onto the fabric it will appear the

correct way. Print the image onto the transfer paper according to the manufacturer's directions.

Step 4: Trim the printed design

If desired, trim the printed design, leaving approximately 1 inch (2.5 centimetres) around the printed area.

Step 5: Place and iron the design onto the tea towel
Place the printed design print side down onto the fabric. Iron the design on to the

fabric according to the manufacturer's directions (do not use a steam setting).

Let cool. Carefully peel away the backing paper to reveal the design.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Writing out a recipe in your own writing, even if you got it from a cookbook, gives the tea towels a personal touch. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



First-time homebuyers tips

Plan ahead, expect the unexpected, says real-estate expert

Buying your first home is an emotional time. The entire process of viewings, making offers and finally getting the keys is full of excitement, fear and anticipation. First-time homebuyers — or “property virgins,” as they were called on the hit HGTV show — have a lot to learn as they navigate the real-estate waters for the first time. Erica Nielsen, VP of Home Equity Financing at RBC, offers five pieces of wisdom to help buy with confidence:

1. Know what you can afford

Many first-time buyers start their home search by asking what neighbourhood they want to live in. “This can lead to disappointment,” says Nielsen. “They get their heart set on a certain neighbourhood and then find out they cannot afford it.” Be realistic about what you can afford and look for homes within that price range.

2. Consider the hidden costs

There’s more to the cost of owning a home than just your mortgage and utilities. “There’s the

first time you go to shovel your walk and realize you don’t have a snow shovel,” says Nielsen. While a shovel is a small expense, add to that a lawn mower to cut your grass, painting supplies, and all the miscellaneous items that come with owning a home — not to mention maintenance costs — and you could end up spending a couple of thousand dollars a year that you hadn’t anticipated.

3. Seek advice from various people

Buying your first home can be a daunting experience. Surround yourself with people who can provide you with advice on everything from how to purchase your home to how to secure financing and ultimately how to maintain your property. “It’s the single biggest expense you’re ever going to have in your life,” says Nielsen. “You need all these kinds of specialists in your community to provide you with the competence for that purchase.”

4. Keep your lifestyle in mind

Mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance,



Plan ahead when looking to buy a home by setting a budget to account for emergencies and little extras. ISTOCK

utilities ... all these bills and more can seriously change the lifestyle you’ve grown accustomed to. Consider how much you spend on entertainment, education and vacations and ask yourself what you’re willing to give up to own your own home. “Sometimes that means waiting longer, saving more before you get into the market,” says Nielsen, who advises first-time buyers to consider all the components that make for a satisfying life and weigh these against home ownership.

5. Look ahead

When Nielsen and her husband purchased their first home, their financial adviser asked her to consider what her life would look like several years down the road and to purchase the biggest house she could afford rather than settling for a “starter home.” Nielsen sat on the sidelines for a while until she was able to save enough money to buy a family home with an extra bedroom. “That allowed us to have two children and not have to move,” she says.

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Inside out, outside in

SUMMER READY

How to turn outdoors into a summer haven

Andrea Janus

If your home has even a few square feet of outdoor space, it's that time again to tackle the job of getting it ready for the few precious months you have to enjoy it.

Getting the patio, rooftop deck or solarium summer-ready doesn't have to be a daunting task, especially if you take time to consider a key question.

Think about what function you want the space to serve, advises interior designer William MacDonald of WillMac Design. Is it a space to dine al fresco on warm summer nights, or a place to put your feet up with a glass of wine and the Sunday paper? If your space is big enough for both, great.

But in a space with limited square footage, like a solarium or a condo balcony, "it's important to make a choice," MacDonald said.

"You have to base your design ideas in reality."

Answering this question may involve spending some time in the space before making big decor investments.

"Get a stool and sit outside and see what times you like to be out there," MacDonald said.

When you're ready to move on to decor, approach the outdoor space as you would your indoor space: invest in good-quality larger pieces — like dining sets, chairs and loungers.

"It's a good investment," MacDonald said. "You'll only buy them once."

Opt for neutral tones, like black, brown, grey, white or cream, and then you can go cheap and cheerful, not to mention colourful, for accessories like outdoor rugs, pillows, poufs and blankets.

Current colour trends include jewel tones — think orange, turquoise and yellow — but softer pastels appear poised to make a comeback in the next year or two, MacDonald predicts. Dusty blue, lilac and rose make for a very traditional look, but also hold up well outdoors because they don't show dust as much as darker tones.

Whether your space is for dining or lounging, or both, everything that goes in it is affected by one key factor: the weather. Make sure your decor can withstand sun, heat, wind and rain, MacDonald says.

That means hurricane lanterns to hold candles, weather-



Invest in quality neutral furniture and explore colour trends with inexpensive accessories. ISTOCK

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proof fabrics like Sunbrella for pillows, cushions and umbrellas, and outdoor rugs.

And don't forget about lighting. Standing lamps work well in smaller spaces. Uplights, which sit on the ground and project lighting upward, can be planted around a garden or patio, while electric candles can be spaced at intervals around a balcony or rooftop terrace.

Finish off the look with some greenery: a handful of large outdoor planters for a big space or boxwood to line a smaller space.

TIPS FOR SAVING ON OUTDOOR DECOR

Buy off-season: Good-quality patio furniture can cost as much as indoor items, so buy your big pieces over the winter, MacDonald says. "You'll get a better price, and you'll get it on time."

Play the long game: If you can't buy everything at once, buy the big, must-have items first (tables, chairs) and add

accessories as you can.

Repurpose: Buy outdoor furniture that can be brought inside to a solarium or living room for the winter, and "re-merchandise" accessories from the patio around the house. Chinese garden stools, for instance, can be added to the living room, powder room or bedroom.

GARDENING

Small, outdoor space? Consider a raised bed

Not everyone has a traditional yard with ample space for perennial gardens and a vegetable patch. Despite this, clever green thumbs are maximizing the space they do have to grow a variety of edible crops.

Here are a few tips that will give you a head start on your garden.

wards towards the sky. This also leaves more space in the actual garden to grow other things. You can also buy or build tiered structures with "drawers" you can fill with soil and plant greens, like lettuce or herbs, which thrive in a shallower space.

Upcycle a raised bed

Antique markets, your parents' backyard, these are both places where you may find items you can upcycle into a garden. Old wooden washtubs, wine barrels, wooden suitcases, you name it. Stock tanks are another modern-looking option that you can buy new or used. And an old table can easily be transformed into a mini-salad garden.

Consider gardening in fabric pots

Fabric pots come in all shapes and sizes and because they're so lightweight, they are perfect for balconies and rooftops. (Note: If you are gardening on a balcony or roof, be sure to look into weight restrictions before introducing a raised bed to the space.)

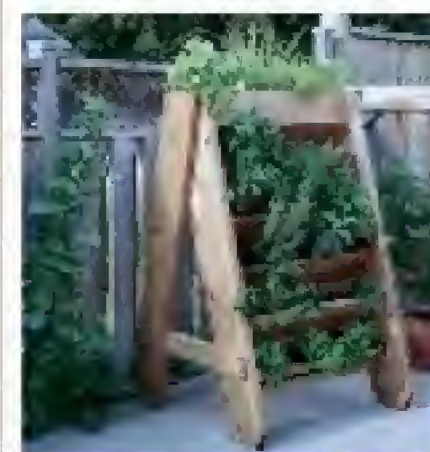


A raised bed kit is ideal for small areas. DONNA GRIFFITH

Consider your space's growing conditions

Most vegetables, especially the heat seekers — tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. — require at least six to eight hours of sunlight a day to bear flowers and then fruit. Take a few days to assess where the sun moves in your space throughout the day to make sure you get enough light. If your space is windy, consider using a shield to protect your plants.

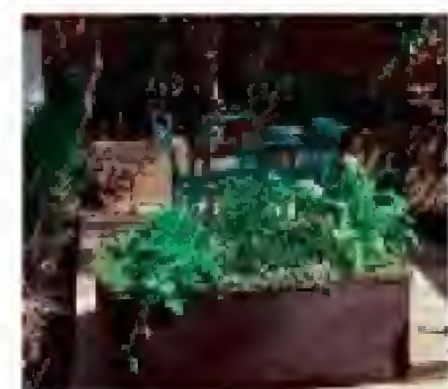
One great thing about raised beds is they can be placed anywhere, making them ideal for a small, urban yard, where the soil may be poor quality. Patio stones and decks are also great space candidates. If all the sunlight happens to shine on your driveway, for example, consider a long, narrow raised bed that runs alongside or some other type of raised bed structure that will still fit when the car is parked.



Vertical gardens maximize space. DONNA GRIFFITH

Grow up, up, up!

Vertical gardening isn't a new buzzword, but it's one that continues to gain traction as green thumbs get creative with their growing structures. To grow vining veggies, install a small trellis system to train plants to grow up-



Fabric pots are easy to store. JOSHUA WHITE FOR WOOLLY POCKET

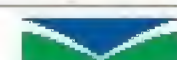
Many fabric-raised beds are deep enough to plant root vegetables. The best part is you can empty them out and fold them up (be sure they're dry first) for the winter months, pulling them out again next spring. This also makes it easier to bring your "raised bed" with you when you move. Les Urbainculteurs and Woolly Pocket have online shops that sell fabric-raised beds.

Consider a kit

Kits may seem pricey, but consider them a long-term investment. Local companies, such as Freedom Growing, offer raised bed kits perfect for a small area that gets a lot of sun, like the corner of a patio or balcony. And everything you need to put them together will be delivered right to your door. If you don't have the tools, borrow them from a neighbour or a local tool-lending library.

Some companies will deliver a raised bed kit, build it and bring along the soil required to fill it.

TARA NOLAN





"I've always wanted to go against Wade in a playoff series": LeBron James eyes a possible Eastern Conference final vs. his former team

Lowry finds humour in his sad shooting stroke

RAPTORS
GAME 2 PREVIEW

All-star point guard posting a paltry 30.6 FG%

A mug shot of Kyle Lowry on a milk carton was making the rounds on social media on Wednesday.

Posted by Twitter account Fake SportsCenter, the milk carton had Lowry's smiling face under the headline: "Missing. Have you seen me? Last seen in the regular-season."

Lowry was the first to admit Wednesday that the version of himself that earned NBA all-star honours has gone AWOL. That's why he stayed on the Air Canada Centre court, headphones in, black hoodie pulled up over his head, until 1:15 a.m. after Tuesday night's overtime loss to Miami in Game 1 of their second-round playoff series.

"Just being a kid again, trying to have some fun," Lowry said of his early morning shooting session. "It was being out there and having time to reflect on things and think about the game that I grew up as a kid ... and the game I love. There were countless nights I've done that back in North Philly."

Lowry was in good spirits



Kyle Lowry sank just three of his 13 shots from the field in the Raptors' 102-96 overtime loss to the Heat on Tuesday night. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

after Wednesday's practice, open and honest with the couple of dozen reporters in attendance. He half-heartedly joked about an unflattering stat that a Raptors media relations person had shown him: his 30.6

shooting field goal percentage is the worst in a single post-season in 50 years.

"I'll take that award, I mean it's an award ... take some type of good with it," he laughed — but followed up with a heavy

sigh. "It's life. It's a basketball game, I know I can shoot better than 31 per cent."

The scrappy, hard-working guard has been instrumental in the Raptors' rise over the last three seasons. His shooting was

“

I got texts from my teammates and I've talked to them. They have my back. I just have to go out and play.

Kyle Lowry

off during the opening-round series against Indiana, but he made up for it with solid ball movement and defence. Lowry said the fact he's in a slump now, in the biggest stretch of his career, is what's most frustrating.

"It's crazy. It's mind-boggling to me. 'Dude how are you not making these shots?' For me, I go into the games like I'm about to go and we are going to win this game. Then I miss a shot and it's 'OK.' Then I miss another shot and that's when it's like 'Alright, I've got to try and do something different.'"

The Raptors had chances to win Game 1 despite Lowry's poor performance, but Toronto's two-time all-star said they can't win the series if he doesn't turn it around.

He'll get his next shot on Thursday, when the Raptors host the Heat in Game 2. The series then moves to Miami for Game 3 on Saturday and Game 4 on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHL

Top player trophy won by Warrior

Moose Jaw Warriors winger Dryden Hunt was named the Western Hockey League's player of the year on Wednesday.

Hunt, who led the WHL with 58 goals and 58 assists in 72 regular-season games, accepted the Four Broncos Memorial Trophy at the WHL awards ceremony in front of former NHLers Joe Sakic, Bobby Clarke and Lanny McDonald.

"I'm honoured to have those guys here," said the 20-year-old Hunt. "I think it's great for us young guys to see those guys come in and I think they enjoyed this experience as much as we did. It's great to see those guys and to win this award in front of them ... it's a pretty special way to end off my WHL career."

Hunt also had seven goals and nine assists in 10 playoff games.

As part of the WHL's 50th season celebrations, Sakic and Clarke were recognized as the league's top two players while McDonald accepted this year's WHL governors award.

Victoria bench boss Dave Lowry was named WHL coach of the year while two of his players — Matthew Phillips, rookie of the year award, and Tyler Soy, most sportsmanlike player — also came away with awards.

A pair of Lethbridge Hurricanes also won awards. Tyler Wong was chosen as humanitarian of the year, while general manager Peter Anholt was named as executive of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Baseball's best Cubs sweep Pirates

The Chicago Cubs are threatening to run away with the NL Central.

Ben Zobrist hit a three-run home run, Anthony Rizzo also connected and Jon Lester worked out of a pair of jams to lead the Cubs over the second-place Pittsburgh Pirates 6-2 Wednesday for a three-game sweep.

With its seventh win in eight games, Chicago improved to a major league-best 20-6. The Cubs also won their seventh straight road game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jon Lester GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Nats produce royal rout
Daniel Murphy finished a triple shy of the cycle, slumping slugger Bryce Harper also went deep and the Washington Nationals routed the floundering Kansas City Royals 13-2 on Wednesday. Murphy and Clint Robinson drove in three runs apiece.

Stephen Strasburg improved to 5-0 allowing two runs on five hits and a walk while striking out seven in six tidy innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Hartley miffed over claimed differences

Bob Hartley says he was surprised to hear that there were differences in philosophy with the Calgary Flames.

The NHL club fired Hartley as its head coach Tuesday after missing the playoffs for the third time in four years under his watch. Special teams and sub-par goaltending plagued Calgary for much of Hartley's final campaign, but he said he was proud of how young players like forwards Johnny Gaudreau, Sean Monahan and Sam

Bennett had developed, as well as the continued emergence of defencemen Marc Giordano and T.J. Brodie.

"I just feel very sad that I didn't get the opportunity to keep working as a group, to keep working as an organization for better days," said Hartley. "There's no doubt in my mind this team is one or two years away from being an excellent hockey club and making a push real deep in the playoffs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



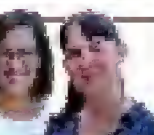
Dryden Hunt, right, tallied 58 goals this past regular season. GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Lemon Thyme Chicken Burger



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



- 4 wholewheat rolls
- toppings like lettuce, tomatoes, goat cheese

Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix together the meat, thyme, zest, juice, egg, breadcrumbs, onions mustard and salt and pepper. Using your hands, form the mixture into 4 x ¾ inch-thick patties.

2. Heat up your pan or barbecue. Add a drop of vegetable oil to the pan if you're cooking them on the stove. Cook the patties over medium/high heat for about 5 minutes on each side. You want the internal temperature to be between 165 and 170.

3. Top your buns with whatever your family likes but we highly recommend goat cheese.

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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

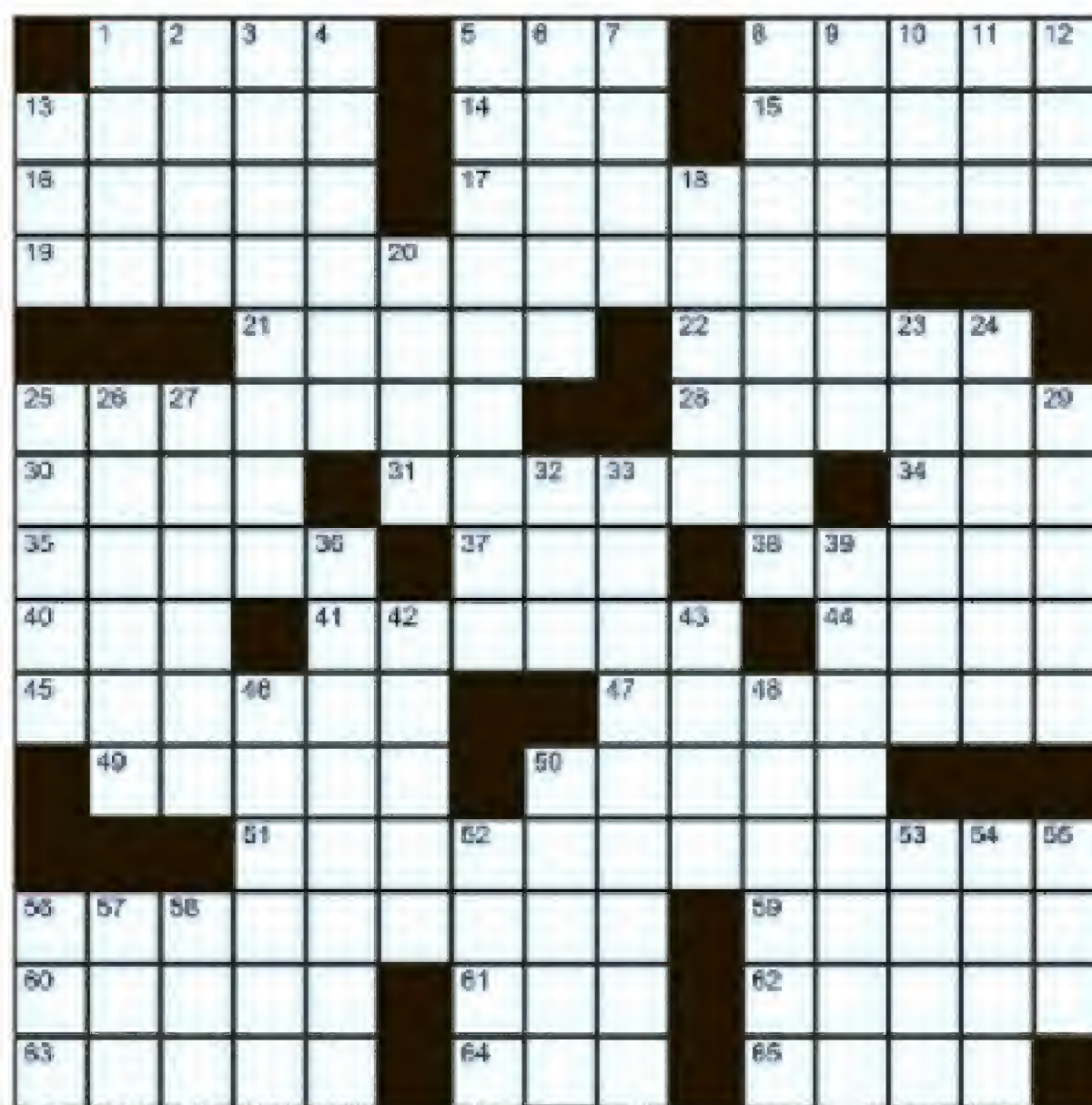
- 1 lb ground chicken
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1 Tbsp lemon zest
- 1 egg, whisked
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 onion, finely minced
- 1/4 cup breadcrumbs
- 2 tsp dijon mustard
- salt and pepper
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Cutting comment
5. "Roxanne" (1987) star ... his initials-sharers
8. Relating to Atomic Number 78
13. Jazz/funk saxophonist Mr. Parker
14. Head-to-...
15. "Wheel of Fortune" letters turner
16. Drinking prop
17. Montreal borough
19. Hit movie of 1984 directed by Canadian director Ivan Reitman
21. Prison takeover, for example
22. Sun-dried brick
25. Newfoundland rum
28. Host/comedian Mr. O'Brien's
30. Mumurs
31. Fort _ _ (North-eastern BC city)
34. Dangerous fly, when doubled
35. Put down
37. "Wow!"
38. Cyber correspondence
40. Broadcaster Mr. King, for short
41. Make a new home, as a bird
44. Gymnast Ms. Korbut
45. Very small antelope which makes a distinct sound when alarmed
47. Cone-shaped Medieval headdresses
49. " _ _ say more?"
50. Prefix to 'comedy' (Comedic drama)



51. Cheater's problem: 2 wds.
56. Oval track vehicle: 2 wds.
59. Sample that sample: 2 wds.
60. Jean _ (Quebec pharmacy chain)
61. _ de coeur (Heart-felt protest)

62. Some seals
63. Short acting performances
64. Suffix with 'Expert'
65. Peter Pan character

DOWN

1. Aptly-named hot springs town in England
2. Prefix to 'bat' (Circus performer)
3. Appraise anew
4. Tuxedo-wearer's accessory
5. 'Crossroads of Friend-

- ship' town in southern Saskatchewan
6. Computer's pointer/clicker
7. Cobblestone
8. Cooked too much
9. _ and Delilah
10. Alphabetic trio
11. Lodging for road trippers

12. Feline
13. Food additive, commonly
18. Stretch to grasp
20. Bird 'bills' in Boucherville
23. Celebrity chef Mario of ABC's "The Chew"
24. Navy rank
25. Steamily sting
26. Nirvana rocker Kurt
27. Mr. _ ("Fantasy Island" character)
29. Actress Ms. Ward's
32. Morning beverage, informally
33. 1984 Steve Perry song that goes "You should've been gone / Knowing how I made you feel": 2 wds.
36. Southern hemisphere constellation
39. Personalized embroidery, as on a bathrobe
42. "Stand By Me" by Ben _
43. Ms. Hatcher
46. Joy of "Three's Company"
48. Last regular play baseball innings
50. Department store chain
52. Nero's 701
53. Literature govt.ess Jane
54. "Egad!"
55. Ards: French
56. Lettered colas
57. Hunky-dory
58. _ bono? = For whose benefit? ... in Latin

*IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Business, commerce and all financial dealings are blessed today — no question. Do the deal. In addition, purchases of beautiful things for yourself and loved ones will please you. Ka-ching!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You love beautiful things, good food and the outdoors, especially lovely gardens. Today is the perfect day to enjoy these things. It's also a lovely day for romance.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Solitude in beautiful surroundings will delight you today. Pamper yourself in any way that you can.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will enjoy hanging out with creative, charming people today. You feel social and warm-hearted toward others.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will make a great impression on bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs today. In fact, a flirtation or romance with your boss or someone in a position of authority might blossom.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Give yourself a chance to see beautiful places today. Travel for pleasure will be a treat, because you will truly appreciate the artistic creations of others.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Because you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today, this is a good time to ask for a loan or a mortgage. In all your dealings with others, people will be generous to you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Relations with partners and close friends are warm and friendly today. This is a great day for a date or schmoozing with the general public.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Co-workers are supportive today. You might get a raise or praise! You will enjoy making your workplace more attractive in some way. (Let others help you if they offer.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Love at first sight is encouraged by the stars today. Whatever you do will be pleasant, fun-loving and enjoyable, because this is a lighthearted, pleasant day.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good day to check out real estate deals or to buy something beautiful for your home. Invite the gang over for good food and drink, because today also favors family get-togethers.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You can make money with your words today, which is good news for writers, actors, teachers and people in sales.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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